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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 004632

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [ENRG](#) [ETTC](#) [PARM](#) [PGOV](#) [IN](#) [NSSP](#)

SUBJECT: GOI ON NSSP REMAINING STEPS: U.S. MOVING THE
NON-PROLIFERATION GOALPOSTS

REF: STATE 112244

Classified By: DCM Bob Blake, for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

1. (C) Summary: In response to DCM's delivery of reftel demarche on June 17, MEA Additional Secretary (International Security) Meera Shankar expressed concern that the USG was "moving the goalposts" on non-proliferation negotiations and that it would be difficult to achieve harmonization beyond the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) requirements. She noted that although the GOI was not happy with India's gains from the NSSP, they had adhered to their commitments but now saw the USG request for harmonization with the Australia Group (AG) and Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) as a new change in the requirements. She worried that it would be difficult to achieve harmonization with an "ad hoc group" beyond the requirements of the CWC. DCM responded that the US is not moving the goalposts because harmonization of GOI control lists with the AG and WA is not a condition for concluding NSSP, nor is it new since these two lists had been part of our discussions since D/NSA Hadley's September 2003 visit to New Delhi. Shankar requested clarification on USG intentions and the final contours of cooperation, and said that she would respond to the non-paper at a later date. End Summary.

2. (C) After DCM delivered reftel points, Shankar responded that she had taken note of the remaining steps to complete NSSP phase two and three, but her "prima facie reaction" was that the USG request for AG and Wassenaar harmonization was "moving the goalposts with respect to nonproliferation." When the GOI completed one step, Washington kept "putting fresh ideas on the table." She was "unclear about the intention" of these steps, and asked whether it was to "facilitate more cooperation" or something else.

3. (C) As a member of the CWC, Shankar cautioned the GOI position is to abide by this agreement, and an "ad hoc group" cannot take precedence over an international convention in which India is a decision making member. She observed that the request to harmonize with the AG and Wassenaar was "totally new" and that it would not be easy to go beyond that Convention. She requested more information on the "final contours of the cooperation."

4. (C) Emphasizing that AG and Wassenaar harmonization were not conditions for completing the NSSP, DCM told Shankar that they would be helpful steps to facilitate further Indo-US cooperation in such areas as space. Stressing that the US was not moving the goalposts, DCM explained that as India crosses an important milestone of completing the NSSP, Washington is looking forward to new possibilities for cooperation in a broad range of space, energy and defense areas. The DCM also reminded Shankar that the US had been discussing the desirability of the GOI harmonizing its control lists with those of the NSG, MTCR, AG and Wassenaar since then-D/NSA Hadley's September 2003 visit to Delhi. Shankar reiterated that she had taken note of the points and could not comment immediately on further harmonization but would respond later to the non-paper.

MULFORD